

**Remarks/Arguments:**

Applicants filed an IDS on December 11, 2008, which included a PTO/SB/08a form. Applicants note that a copy of the PTO/SB/08a form was not attached with the present Office Action. Applicants conducted an electronic search on PAIR, which also revealed that although the PTO/SB/08a form was stored on the PAIR system no copy of the acknowledged PTO/SB/08a form is present on the PAIR system. Applicants request that the Examiner consider the references in the PTO/SB/08a form and provide a copy of the PTO/SB/08a form with the next Office Action.

Claims 1-2 and 6-7 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 3-5 and 8 have been cancelled. Claims 1-2 and 6-7 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-2 and 6-7 are presented for reconsideration.

Claims 1-2 and 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious over Ando et al. in view of Cazier. Claim 1 is amended to recite features neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art, namely:

... all parameter information in said parameter information file associated with one data format being stored **contiguous with** all parameter information in said parameter information file associated with another data format by using a classification according to said data formats ... (Emphasis added).

The Office Action states that all the parameter information for one data format is contained in area (logical block) 406 (Fig. 14 of Ando et al.) and that the contents of the file (data file) are stored at areas (logical blocks) 408 and 409. (Page 3, lines 2-5). The Office Action then concludes that Figs. 14 and 15 of Ando et al. disclose that all the parameter information associated with one data format (i.e. in logical block 406) and another data format are stored sequential to each other. (Page 3, lines 2-16).

However, Ando et al. do not disclose that all the parameter information associated with one data format and another data format are stored **contiguous with** each other. Rather, Ando recites "the file management system is **distributed over the disk** ..." (Col. 20, lines 21-22). That is, the parameter information associated with each format in Ando et al. is **distributed over the disk and not contiguous with each other**. Figs. 14 and 24 illustrate how the parameter information is distributed over the disk and not contiguous with each other.

Fig. 14 of Ando et al. shows the hierarchy of the UDF file management information system. (Col. 6, lines 14-16). As shown in Fig. 14, the hierarchy includes a root directory 401 and a subdirectory 402 containing information associated with a file data 403 of a first format. The parameter information for one data format is stored in logical block 406. The contents of the file (data file (a) and (b) of the first format) are stored at logical blocks 408 and 409.

Fig. 24 of Ando et al. shows a plurality of subdirectories stored sequential to each other. Therefore, another subdirectory containing information associated with a file data of a second format may be stored sequential to a first subdirectory (i.e. subdirectory 402). The other subdirectory may also store parameter information associated with the second format and the contents of the file (data file of the second format). That is, Ando discloses that the contents of the file (data file (a) and (b) of the first format) are stored between (not contiguous with) the parameter information associated with the first format (in subdirectory 402) and the parameter information associated with the second format (in the next subdirectory). Therefore, the parameter information associated with the first format (in subdirectory 402) and the parameter information associated with the second format (in the next subdirectory) are not stored contiguous with each other. Thus, Ando et al. does not disclose or suggest "... all parameter information in said parameter information file associated with one data format being stored **contiguous with** all parameter information in said parameter information file associated with another data format," as recited in claim 1.

Cazier is cited for its teaching of giving each object a unique ID by using an order in which the object is created. However, Cazier does not disclose "... all parameter information in said parameter information file associated with one data format being stored **contiguous with** all parameter information in said parameter information file associated with another data format," as recited in claim 1.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Claim 2 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 2 is likewise allowable over the art of record.

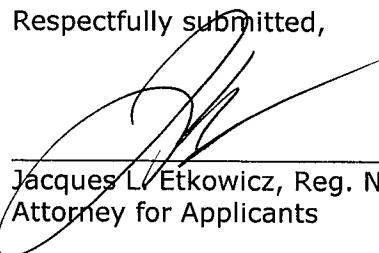
Claims 6 and 7, while not identical to claim 1, include features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claims 6 and 7 are also allowable over the art of record for at least reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

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